

**From:** Matt Smolik  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I feel that the proposed settlement with Microsoft is a very bad idea. This amounts to a slap on the wrist, if that, for Industry wide antitrust violation. Industry wide antitrust violation that continue to this day, with new violation each week.

It is not as much what Microsoft does, but how they do it. In an effort to "simplify" their OS they purposely deceive the user. Even if Microsoft is forced to stop the binding of their own software with their OS, they still have control over which application will open which type of document. They have always hidden this from the user, and it is painful to use even if you know where to locate it. This is one way that Microsoft will continue to force their own software over all others.

Additionally on point A (Unbinding Microsoft's Software) this will have little to no effect. If the user is unaware that they may obtain a different web browser then they can not choose to. While working as in Internet Technical Support, I have heard many users claim that Internet Explorer IS the Internet. They do not know any better, thus use the software that came on their computer blindly. Moreover, I have informed many users that they do indeed have a choice in browser software (just to name one) but this is to no avail for they do not know how to obtain and/or install new software or do not wish to bother learning. Thus it is too late and the user is lost down the Microsoft path.

I hope that my words have not fallen on deaf Microsoft purchased ears.

"I don't mind Microsoft making money. I mind them having a bad operating system." -- Linus Torvalds ("The Rebel Code," NY Times, 21 February 1999)

Matthew Smolik

P.S. Since you are probably using Microsoft Outlook to view this, can you name 5 other email programs?

P.P.S It is very unsettling to learn that Microsoft is advertising their monopolistic OS in the United States Post Office.  
<http://www.macintouch.com/postoffice.html>